

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 45

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLMOTT

CURRICULA: Requests certain nonpublic schools to provide instruction relative to the Safe Haven Law

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request each nonpublic high school to provide students at least thirty minutes
3 of classroom instruction each year in health education or a comparable course
4 determined to be appropriate by the school's governing authority relative to the
5 state's safe haven relinquishments law, Children's Code Articles 1149 through 1160.

6 WHEREAS, Children's Code Articles 1149 through 1160 contain provisions
7 collectively known as the Safe Haven Law and provide a mechanism whereby any parent
8 may relinquish the care of an infant who is not more than thirty days old to the state in safety
9 and anonymity without fear of prosecution; and

10 WHEREAS, under certain circumstances, parents may give up custody of an infant
11 with no questions asked when leaving the baby in the care of an employee at a Safe Haven
12 facility; and

13 WHEREAS, the Safe Haven Law offers a loving alternative to newborn
14 abandonment; and

15 WHEREAS, Louisiana's teenagers sometimes face unintended pregnancies, and they
16 must be made aware that if they or someone they know is not ready to take care of a
17 newborn, this law offers parents a safe, legal option; and

18 WHEREAS, steps must be taken to educate teenagers about the provisions of the
19 Safe Haven Law, which is designed to protect both parents and babies from harm.

20 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
21 urge and request each nonpublic high school to provide to students at least thirty minutes of
22 age- and grade-appropriate classroom instruction each year in health education or a

1 comparable course determined to be appropriate by the school's governing authority relative
2 to the state's safe haven relinquishments law, Children's Code Articles 1149 through 1160.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such instruction should include but not be
4 limited to providing students with the following information:

5 (1) An explanation that relinquishment of an infant means to give over possession
6 or control of the infant to other specified persons as provided by law with the settled intent
7 to forego all parental responsibilities.

8 (2) The process to be followed by a parent in making a relinquishment.

9 (3) The general locations where an infant may be left in the care of others.

10 (4) The toll-free number established by the Louisiana Department of Social Services
11 to direct individuals to designated emergency care facilities.

12 (5) The available options if a parent is unable to travel to a designated emergency
13 care facility.

14 (6) The process by which a relinquishing parent may reclaim parental rights to the
15 infant and the timelines established for taking this action.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
17 to the chair of the Nonpublic School Commission.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Willmott

HCR No. 45

Requests nonpublic high schools to provide to students at least 30 minutes of classroom instruction each year relative to the Safe Haven Law in health education or a comparable course determined to be appropriate by the school's governing authority.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original resolution.

1. Requests nonpublic high schools to provide such instruction instead of nonpublic schools offering grades 10 and 12.
2. Rather than requesting that such instruction be provided to students in grades 10 and 12, requests that such instruction be provided to students each year in health education or a comparable course determined to be appropriate by the school's governing authority.